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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Communist Measures Against Catholic Schools

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1. The T'ien Shan (天山) Primary School, a foundation of the Catholic mission in Tunchi (118-20, 29-44), South Anhwei, experienced some difficulties during December 1949. One of the Spanish Catholic sisters there, Sister Pu-tee-ming,* was charged with having three times interfered with the children at play and having injured with stones the pupil HUNG Chih-yuan (洪志遠). A Catholic teacher, WANG Ch'ang-meng (王昌孟), was also accused of having made statements opposed to Communist ideology. During January 1950, the Students' Union of Tunchi held a meeting of high schools and primary schools and passed a resolution demanding the mission surrender its authority over the school. The mission was negotiating with the Communist authorities for permission to continue in early February 1950.
2. In Huaining (117-02, 30-31), the Shang Wen (尚文) Primary School, established by a Catholic mission, was requested by Communist authorities to place itself under their jurisdiction. Mo-ch'en,* the Spanish Catholic father in charge of the school, refused. When Mo-ch'en reprimanded student HSIANG Pen-ch'u (張本初) for violation of a school regulation on 2 January 1950, the students accused him of beating HSIANG to make him accept Catholicism. The local Students' Union agitated against Mo-ch'en, and HSIANG Meng-hsien (張夢仙), father of HSIANG Pen-ch'u, brought suit against the principal, claiming his son had been injured.
3. The case was tried on 17 January 1950 in an open court at the People's Club in Huaining, with YEH Shu-ch'en (葉樹森) as chief Judge and YANG Shang-yu (楊尚宇) as a member of the jury. The verdict, returned the same day, ordered Mo-ch'en:
 - a. to apologize to HSIANG Pen-ch'u and his family and pay a medical fee of JWP 600,000 in compensation for HSIANG's injuries and JWP 400,000 as a recuperation fee;
 - b. to place a notice in the local papers apologizing to teachers and students of the Shang Wen School and present to the government a written guarantee that the incident would not be repeated;
 - c. to leave the school and refrain from any interference with its administration and funds and from compelling students or teachers to accept the Catholic faith.

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* Comment. This is a Chinese phonetic reproduction of the Spanish name.

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